

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 108767  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 DHA-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02  
PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 /102 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON/NH  
APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL  
AF:TSEELYE (INFO)  
DHA:EJONES (INFO)

-----141905Z 003119 /62

R 131815Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 108767

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF HASSIB BEN AMMAR

REF: TUNIS 3062

1. PER SCENARIO IN REFTTEL, FORMER TUNISIAN DEFENSE MINISTER HASSIB BEN AMMAR CALLED DESK OFFICER FROM NEW YORK AND ADVISED THAT HE AND DR. BEN JAAFAR WERE VISITING U.S. AS AUTHORIZED DELEGATES OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC LIBERTIES. HE SAID THAT HE AND BEN JAAFAR WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON EVENING OF MAY 11, AND ASKED THAT DESK OFFICER ORGANIZE A MEETING WITH "DES HAUTES PERSONALITIES" IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, SPECIFICALLY SECRETARY VANCE OR UNDER SECRETARY  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 108767

HABIB. DESK OFFICER REGRETTED THAT NEITHER WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL LATER IN THE MONTH. IN THAT EVENT, BEN AMMAR SAID, HE WOULD PREFER THAT THERE BE NO FORMAL MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS. HE ADDED THAT HE AND BEN JAAFAR HAD NOT MET WITH ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING THEIR PREVIOUS VISITS IN FRANCE AND UK.

2. IN REPLY TO DESK OFFICER'S QUESTIONS, BEN AMMAR REPORTED THAT DELEGATION HAD MET WITH INTERESTED INTERNATIONAL

GROUPS IN FRANCE, SWITZERLAND AND UK, AND WITH PRESS. INTERVIEWS HELD WITH "JOURNAL DE GENEVE," "LE MONDE," AND "LONDON TIMES/SUNDAY TIMES." "LE MONDE" HAD PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON MAY 5 AND "SUNDAY TIMES" ON MAY 8. (REQUEST THAT EMBASSIES LONDON AND PARIS POUCH COPIES OF ARTICLES TO EMBASSY TUNIS AND TO DEPARTMENT.)

3. IN NEW YORK, BEN AMMAR SAID HE AND BEN JAAFAR HAD MET WITH UNITED NATIONS BRANCH OF THE UNITED METHODIST OFFICE, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, AND THE NATIONAL RIGHTS GUILD (SIC). FURTHER MEETINGS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WERE SCHEDULED, AND A MEETING WITH NEW YORK TIMES. IN WASHINGTON, BEN AMMAR SAID HE HOPED TO MEET WITH THE WASHINGTON POST, AND ASKED THAT WE ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING. DESK OFFICER SAID HE WAS HESITANT TO SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY FOR MEETING WITH PRESS, AND BEN AMMAR IMMEDIATELY GRASPED POINT, SAYING PRESS IN U.S. IS "10 TIMES AS FREE AS OURS." WE OFFERED WHATEVER REASONABLE FACILITATIVE SERVICE WE COULD PROVIDE TO BEN AMMAR, WHO WILL BE STAYING AT CAPITAL HILTON. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE108767  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TSWILKINSON/NH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770171-0908  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770560/aaaabzln.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b5aea494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TUNIS 3062  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2531606  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF HASSIB BEN AMMAR  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, OTRA, TS, (AMMAR, HASSIB BEN)  
**To:** TUNIS LONDON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b5aea494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009